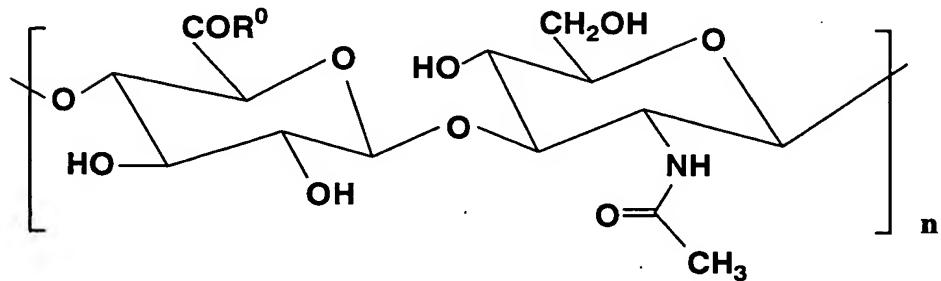


CLAIMS

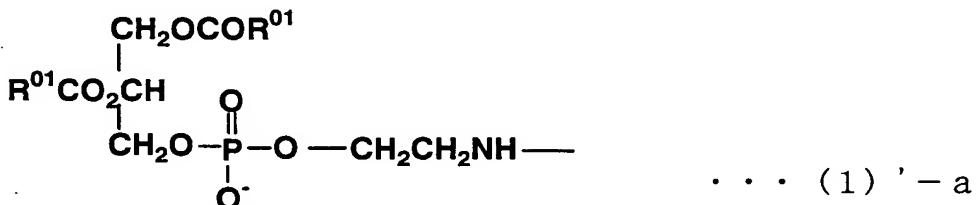
1. (Amended) A hyaluronic acid compound represented by the following formula (1)':



5

• • • (1)'

wherein R^0 is a group represented by the following formula (1)'-a, -OH or -ONA,



wherein R^{01} is an alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms,

10 and n is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that
1 to 100 % of R^0 is the group represented by the above formula
(1)'-a.

2. The hyaluronic acid compound according to claim 1,

15 wherein n is 300 to 30,000.

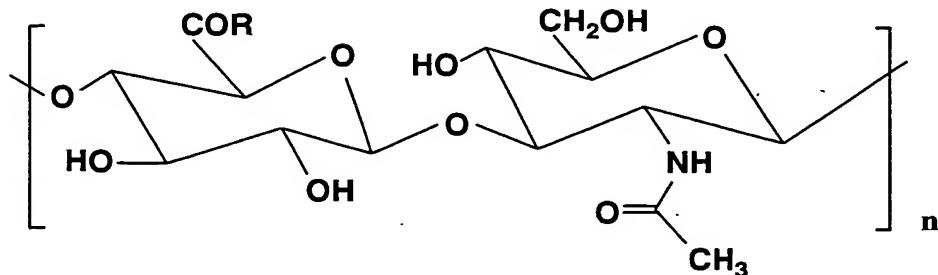
3. (Amended) The hyaluronic acid compound according to claim 1, wherein two R^1CO- 's in the formula (1)'-a are both oleoyl groups.

20

4. A hydrogel of the hyaluronic acid compound of any one of claims 1 to 3.

5. A molded form of the hyaluronic acid compound of any
25 one of claims 1 to 3.

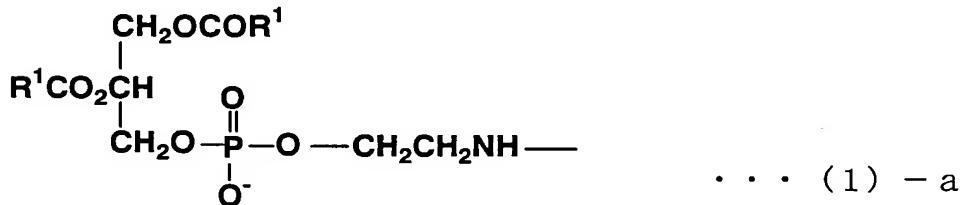
6. (Amended) A joint treating material comprising a hyaluronic acid compound represented by the following formula (1):



5

... (1)

wherein R is a group represented by the following formula (1)-a, -OH or -ONa,



... (1) - a

10 wherein R¹ is an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms,

and n is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 100 % of R is the group represented by the above formula (1)-a.

15

7. The joint treating material according to claim 6 which has cartilage restoring ability.

8. (Amended) Use of the hyaluronic acid compound
20 represented by the above formula (1) as a joint treating material.